

whatsUp!

Bush Telegraph

from

The Waterberg Nature Conservancy



October/November 2021

Welcome to our new look - let us know what you think.

Stop Press ---The Thunderbirds have landed!

At last the long anticipated arrival of the **Ground Hornbills** at the **Living Museum!** Named Warrior and Rio, it is hoped that they get on and mate - as Clive says an 'arranged marriage!'

The extra large aviary has now been designated a breeding station as opposed to originally being merely a holding station.

Well done Clive Walker for bringing this exciting project to fruition. I'm sure the birds will be a huge added tourist attraction for the Museum and indeed the Waterberg. Excuse the wire fence in the pic.

(Top - female Rio / Bottom - male Warrior with a feather in his beak, a gift for Rio?)



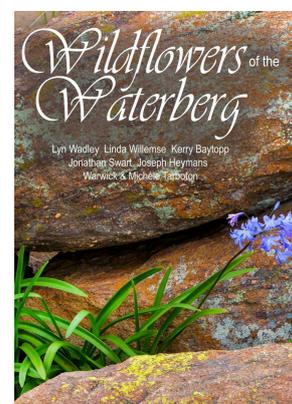
Lapalala Wilderness luxury lodge **Tintswalo** has been very active producing a weekly video newsletter (Conservation Diaries) showing the amazing variety of game in this lesser known reserve; not just the big 5, although naturally elephants, lions, leopards, buffalo, rhino are the stars of the show, but many smaller animals and birds. Really worth following. <www.tintswalo.com/lapalala/gamelodge>



Sponsored by **Marataba Game Lodge** in Marakele, good are things happening at the **Living Museum**, all slightly under the radar - more that 640 mainly under-privileged children from as far as Marataba and Bakenberg have passed through the museum's doors in the past few months. Moji Kitse and Sekhwiri Langa have designed a great programme aligned to the school curriculum incorporating geology, history, physics and tourism. The museum brings subjects to life and has the side effect of quickly identifying kids with a specific interest in nature and the subjects covered in the museum. A terrific initiative!

Wildflowers of the Waterberg

I'm very bad at identifying flowers and trees and found that most books don't really help - everything is put together in their various families and unless you know the genera (I don't), you're lost. The *Wildflowers of the Waterberg* overcame that with a stroke of genius - at the back of this very well put together, photographically beautiful book, is a comprehensive index filing the flowers by colour! so if you see, for example, a red flower, there they are all together and once you have that it refers you to the actual descriptions etc. How simple - Brilliant! An altogether superb book from the authors: **Lyn Wadley, Linda Willemse, Kerry Baytopp, Jonathan Swart, Joseph Heymans, Warwick and Michele Tarboton.**



Available from The Black Mamba and all good bookshops.

For more information contact - [<wtarbotn@iafrica.com>](mailto:wtarbotn@iafrica.com)

September General Meeting

Prof. Nigel Barker opened proceedings, bringing us up to date on his exciting project identifying plants endemic to the Waterberg. With involvement from universities, local residents and schools this promises to add a huge amount of important information to the plant database.

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If you thought you knew everything about Ground Hornbills then **Dr. Lucy Kemp**, following on research started by her parents in 1966, surely made you think again, delivering a truly fascinating in-depth talk on these incredible birds. Watch out for 'The Thunderbirds' her video coming soon. <project@ground-hornbill.org.za>

Reilly Mooney (Ms Painted Wolf) gave us the latest information on the Waterberg pack of wild dogs, their pups and their movements, as well as the important matter of bringing local farmers on-side. With only 400 animals left in the wild, the majority in the Kruger, Reilly's work is vital in protecting the last free roaming pack of these beautiful animals. <mooney.reilly@gmail.com>



You may have noticed an old house in town (just up from Maxi Glass) with a red cross on the door. It is a new clinic run by two retired nurses. A great addition to Vaalwater's somewhat limited medical facilities. As soon as we find out more, we'll pass on the information.

AGM - last meeting of the year this Thursday November 4th - great speakers.



All images c Robin Taylor

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